

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A pouch having at least one sheet comprising a laminate comprising:

a polyester outer layer;

a polypropylene inner layer; and

a first solventless aliphatic polyurethane laminating adhesive applied to at least one layer of an adjacent pair of layers of said laminate to bond ~~bonding~~ together said ~~two~~ adjacent layers of said laminate, said laminating adhesive ~~and~~ including exfoliated clay platelets forming a functional barrier to the passage of gases through the at least one sheet; and

the pouch including a storage space substantially enclosed by said at least one sheet.

Claim 2 (original) A pouch according to claim 1, further comprising: a polyamide layer between said polyester outer layer and said polypropylene inner layer and bonded to one of said polyester outer layer and said polypropylene inner layer by said first adhesive; and a second adhesive bonding said polyamide layer to the other of said polyester outer layer and said polypropylene inner layer.

Claim 3 (original) A pouch according to claim 2, wherein said second adhesive is the same as said first adhesive.

Claim 4 (original) A pouch according to claim 2, wherein said polyamide layer is made of nylon.

Claim 5 (original) A pouch according to claim 1, wherein said polyester layer is made of polyethylene terephthalate.

Claim 6 (original) A pouch according to claim 1, wherein said polypropylene layer is cast polypropylene.

Claim 7 (original) A pouch according to claim 1, which is capable of being retorted at a temperature of at least 120°C without damage.

Claim 8 (original) A pouch according to claim 1 wherein the pouch has at least one seam, which joins edges of two portions of the laminate, which edges lie face to face with the said polypropylene layers of the two portions of the laminate facing one another.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A pouch according to claim 8, wherein the polypropylene layers of the two laminate portions are joined by welding and wherein the bonding of adjacent layers within the laminate portions is not effected by the welding of the polypropylene.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A pouch according to claim 1, wherein said first adhesive ~~is a copolymer of~~ comprises an aliphatic diisocyanate and a diol.

Claim 11 (original) A pouch according to claim 1, wherein said exfoliated clay material comprises montmorillonite clay platelets surface-modified by replacing sodium ions with quaternary onium ions.

Claim 12 (original) A pouch according to claim 1, wherein the storage area contains a product, and the at least one sheet is sealed so as to substantially inhibit the ingress of bacteria into the storage area.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A laminated material for use in a retortable pouch, the laminated material comprising:

a polyester first layer;

a polyamide second layer adhesively attached to the first layer ~~with~~ by a first solventless laminating adhesive applied to at least one of the first and second layers, the laminating adhesive including clay platelets; and

a polypropylene third layer attached to the second layer with a second solventless adhesive.

Claim 14 (original) A material according to claim 13, wherein the first solventless adhesive and the second solventless adhesive are the same.

Claim 15 (original) A material according to claim 13, wherein the second solventless adhesive includes clay platelets.

Claim 16 (original) A material according to claim 13, wherein the said polyester is polyethylene terephthalate.

Claim 17 (original) A material according to claim 13, wherein the said polyamide is nylon.

Claim 18 (original) A material according to claim 13, wherein the said polypropylene is cast polypropylene.

Claim 19 (original) A material according to claim 13, wherein the said clay platelets are surface-modified montmorillonite platelets.

Claim 20 (currently amended) A laminated material for use in a retortable pouch, the laminated material comprising:

a polyester first layer; and

a polypropylene second layer adhesively attached to the first layer ~~with~~ by a solventless laminating adhesive applied to at least one of the first and second layers, the laminating adhesive including clay platelets.

Claim 21 (original) A material according to claim 20, wherein the said polyester is polyethylene terephthalate.

Claim 22 (original) A material according to claim 20, wherein the said polypropylene is cast polypropylene.

Claim 23 (original) A material according to claim 20, wherein the said clay platelets are surface-modified montmorillonite platelets.

Claim 24 (new) A flexible laminate for a pouch, the laminate comprising:

a first layer comprising polyester film;

a second layer comprising polypropylene film;

a laminating adhesive applied to a surface defined by at least one of the first and second film layers to bond the first and second film layers together, the laminating adhesive comprising polyurethane and clay platelets.